

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /128 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1665

UNCLAS USUN 5274

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN UNGA: CUBAN PERM REP'S CHARGES
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON, SPEAKING MORNING NOV. 30 IN PLENARY
DEBATE UNDER SELF-DETERMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM,
ONCE AGAIN CHARGED THAT FIVE PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS
CONFINED TO US PRISONS WERE "OLDEST POLITICAL PRISONERS IN
WESTERN HEMISPHERE." ALARCON DERIDED US VIEW, AS EXPRESSED
IN AMB. SCALI'S NOV 14 LETTER TO UNSYG FOR CIRCULATION
TO ALL MISSIONS (REF AIRGRAM A-1611), THAT PUERTO RICANS
IMPRISONED NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS BUT AFTER
BEING CONVICTED OF MURDER AND ARMED ASSAULT. AMB. FERGUSON,
EXERCISING US RIGHT OF REPLY, REPEATED FOR RECORD SUBSTANCE
OF AMB. SCALI'S LETTER AND ADDED THAT SINCE TWO OF FIVE
PRISONERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE IF THEY SUBMIT WRITTEN
APPLICATIONS, "THEY HOLD KEY TO THEIR FREEDOM IN THEIR POCKETS. "
ALARCON, INSISTENT AS EVER IN HAVING LAST WORD, SAID REFUSAL
OF OSCAR COLLAZO AND LOLITA LEBRON TO APPLY FOR PAROLE WAS PROOF
THEY WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS ACTING ON PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN
COMMON CRIMINALS. ALARCON CONCLUDED WITH ARGUMENT THAT
SINCE UNGA HAD JUST ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON ITEM WHICH APPROVES
ARMED STRUGGLE AS MEANS OF EXERCISING SELF-DETERMINATION (SEPTTEL),
ACTS COMMITTED BY "PUERTO RICAN PATRIOTS" WERE IN EFFECT
SANCTIONED BY UN.

BENNETT

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